Sgt. H.L.Bank, 20416637
Co M 167th Inf APO 31 % PM
S.F., Calif.

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VIA AIR M

Major Bert Bank
A rmy Store,
Tuscaloosa, Alabama, U.S.A.

1 Nov 45

Dear Bert:

I haven't heard from you in so long, that I don't know where you are now. I don't know if you went home from Chicago, or to Penna., or to Miami on the bond trip, or to Avon, Conn. Boy, you are sure doing some traveling nowadays.

I went totown, Davao, yesterday at 1 o'clock to get my watch fixed. I got back at 9:30 o'clock. I saw Ellis fromhome in town. He had just arrived from Parang on his LSM. I went by the ship to see the boys that I had ridden down with 3 weeks ago, and also saw George, monkey, down there. He sure wasglad to see me.

We were supposed to leave here yesterday, but our boats didn't come in. No one seems to know when they will arrive. Some say we don't leave until the 25th of the month now. So I don't know when we will get to the States. I sure hope it is before Xmas, though. Right?

Itis hot as the devil herenow, and rains everynight. I still haven't managed for a set of the pictures the PRO took up at the Davao Penal Colony. No one can ride up there now. I sure would like to fly up there, and might yet, if we stay here a little longer.

Our new Battalion Surgeon is Capt. Arthur Seale, from Moundville. I don't know him, but he went to the U of A back in 1928, and used to eat inour place.

There are 20,000 Japs in the stockade down here, and they are shipping them out everyday. They live in tents, and only a few have cots. There is one Jap civilian woman in there with her husband. They issue one package of pipe tobacco to every 6 men once a month. They put them in the holds of a ship without cots and they suffer in those hot holds, but not as much as you did. They couldn't find enough work for them to do, so ~~thxxx~~ we have them cleaning the jungle out to make a ball field, two of them. And boy itis hot out there. If if was up tome I wouldn't even give them water when they work. Right?

I got my Jap watch fixed, and two others also, but the other two stopped running before I got home. I am going to try and go back this afternoon and get the Flip to look at it again, as I have already paid him. I got in the brown with a lotof the officers up here at Battalion Headquarters, doing them a lot of favors, that I didn't have to do as Sgt. Major, and one of them gave me a quart of Shenley's Reserve. I am going to save it until I get on the boat. He's a nice fellow from Galveston, Texas, and was at OCS the same time I was.

B oy, are we allgripping over here now. They are using Liberty ships to send the Japs to Jap an, and instead of converting them totake us home, they would rather see the Japs sent home first. We get a Daily P acifican paper, and you ought to read the hot letters of p rotest they, the men and officers, write in. The papers back home are headlining the news of so many troops that are being shipped home, and the truth is that only about a fourth of the number are really leaving here. I sure will be glad to leave this God-forsaken country of Flips. Right? I can't stand the smell of them and their towns.

We are having beat-up fried chicken again tonight. I am getting of eating chicken every other day. Right?

Well, the Special Service just called and said we canb uy either 1 cartons of cigarettes for 2 P or 1 box of cigars for 7 P. So I guess I will get two cartons today. It will probably be our last issue before we leave, I hope, I hope, I hope. The special service officer is a 1st Lt that played halfback for Dartmouth in 1936. He is a regular fellow, and a hot buddy of mine.

Be good and I'll see you soon.

Chuck